

that make them less effective in carrying out their missions, including requiring additional fences in areas where the fencing doesn't make much sense. In a lot of places, it does. There are 600 miles or so where it does, and there are more places that it does. But there are also some places where it makes more sense to resource a drone, to have land-based radar and cameras, where it makes more sense to fly the 206s, to have helicopters with the right kind of surveillance equipment on them and be able to move people along.

I want to mention some other cost-effective technology. We saw some really interesting hand-held devices that allow the border agents to see in the dark. I also saw something at one of the ports of entry. It was actually about the size of my Blackberry. I remember standing at the ports of entry where they have literally thousands of cars and trucks and vehicles and pedestrians coming across a day. But before the truck or vehicle ever got to the border, the officer had a device that would tell her the truck that was coming through, the history of the truck that was coming through, the driver who was in the truck and the history of that driver coming through, what should be in the truck, and what was the cargo in the truck in recent months. This was up in Detroit too. But one of the officers there said this is a game changer.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill we are debating appropriates about \$6.5 billion to continue to build on the progress we have made and achieve the ambitious goals it sets for the Department. That is good news. My goal is to make sure that much of this funding is devoted to these force multipliers to help our boots on the ground work smarter and be more effective. I don't think we need to micromanage the process.

We have been joined by the majority leader. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend yielding.

Mr. President, I read into the RECORD in some detail today a letter that he wrote with Senator LEAHY talking about what has gone on in recent years with border security. Our country is very fortunate to have this good man leading our Homeland Security Committee.

There are some Senators I don't know as much about as I do about this man, but we have been together since 1982. He had a sabbatical for 8 years to run the State of Delaware as Governor, but other than that, we have been locked in arms, moving forward.

I appreciate very much his yielding.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING OFFICER JASON ELLIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today for the sad occasion of paying tribute to a brave and honorable police officer from my home State of Kentucky who has fallen in the line of duty. Officer Jason Ellis, a seven-year veteran of the Bardstown Police Department, was tragically killed on May 25. He was 33 years old.

Officer Ellis worked as a field-training officer and a canine officer; with his police dog, Figo, he fought illegal drug use in Bardstown. Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin described Officer Ellis as one of Bardstown's top officers and credited him with making a serious dent in the town's drug problem. Chief McCubbin also said these words: "[He] paid the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved: being a police officer."

Jason Ellis, a native of Cincinnati, OH, attended the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, KY, where he was a star baseball player. He set records for all time career hits, doubles, home runs, and career games played, the last of which is still a record at the school. He played minor league baseball in the Cincinnati Reds system.

Even as a star on the diamond, however, coaches and teammates remember Jason Ellis talking about becoming a law enforcement officer. His wife, Amy, says: "He was always a go-getter. . . . He was dedicated to his job and he wanted to clean the streets up. And that was the way to get the drugs off the streets."

On May 30, Officer Ellis was laid to rest at Highview Cemetery in Nelson County. Fellow law enforcement officers from across the Commonwealth as well as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois came to pay their respects, and hundreds of police cruisers made up the funeral procession. Over a thousand people filled the church sanctuary, with more standing along the aisles, to show their gratitude for Officer Ellis's service and sacrifice.

It is incredibly moving to see the broad outpouring of support from Kentuckians and the law enforcement community for Officer Ellis, which I pray was of some comfort to Officer Ellis's family at such a difficult time. Officer Ellis leaves behind his wife Amy and two sons, Hunter and Parker.

It can't be stated enough, Mr. President, how deep our admiration and respect is for every man and woman who wears a police uniform and makes a solemn vow to defend the lives of others, even at the cost of their own. Police officers provide stability and justice in our civil society. I know my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in extending the deepest sympathies to the family of Officer Jason Ellis and the members of the Bardstown Police Department. We are very sorry for their loss.

REMEMBERING PETE VONACHEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a generous, genuine Illinoisan we lost this week.

Those of us who have watched and listened to Chicago Cubs' games for some time can easily recall Harry Caray. His booming voice was instantly recognizable as the voice of the Cubs—and fans fondly remember his celebrations of their triumphs and his deeply felt sorrow at more than a few of their disappointments.

Some of us may even recall his bright voice welcoming one of his closest friends to the broadcasting booth with the words: "and here today, from Peoria, Pete Vonachen!"

I am sad to say that Pete Vonachen passed away—peacefully—this week. Pete was an enthusiastic, colorful, and memorable person. He loved Peoria, baseball, and the Cubs. You could tell that he bled Cubs blue—especially, as one friend explained, in 2005. That was the year that the White Sox won the World Series.

After running a successful restaurant and making his name in the Peoria business community, he bought the local minor league team and struck an affiliation with his favorite Chicago team. The Peoria Chiefs soon had the highest attendance of any team in the Midwest League. A decade later, they renamed the ballpark they called home to Pete Vonachen Stadium. They even put a statue of him just inside the main gate of their new stadium.

That statue was surrounded with flowers and baseballs placed by fans Monday night as the Chiefs took the field against the Quad Cities River Bandits. And, after a moment of silence to honor his memory, the Chiefs won. The Cubs held a moment of silence for him as well at Wrigley Field Monday.

Pete Vonachen will be missed by his family, his many friends and those who loved him in Peoria, and the entire Illinois baseball community.

We will remember Pete and his tremendous line, "Have a great day, and keep swingin'."

AMIR HEKMATI

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in Flint, MI, a family anxiously awaits word of when their son and brother will return to them. For more than 600 days, Amir Hekmati has been imprisoned in Iran, accused of spying for the United States. His capture, detention, trial and sentencing have brought great anxiety to his loved ones here in the United States.

Amir, who spent much of his childhood in Michigan and whose family still lives there, was visiting relatives in Iran in August of 2011 when he was arrested by Iranian police. In January of 2012, an Iranian trial court sentenced him to death. But on March 5, 2012, Iran's Supreme Court overturned that sentence, ruled Amir's trial had been flawed and ordered a new trial.